the talks with the LTTE was taken by the Sri Lanka Government. Government of India favour the efforts to bring the LTTE into the political mainstream as suggested within the framework of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Government are keeping under review the progress of these talks.

US **and** Chinese advice for normalisation of Indo-Nepal Relations

1988. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA and China had asked India to resolve its differences with Nepal regarding trade etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Both countries have made official press statements expressing the hope that any differences between Nepal and India would be solved by them through mutual discussions.

1989. *Transferred to the 5th May,* 1989]

Nepalese accusation against India

1990. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of April 7, 1989, captioned "Nepalese economy is heading for crisis"; and

(b) if so, what are the facts relating to the reported Nepalese accusation that India had unilaterally terminated the Treaties of Trade and Transit with Nepal; and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not accept this Nepalese perception, or any such accusations. After the initialling of the new Trade Treaty in October, 1988, His Majesty's Government of Nepal had five months for fulfilling certain commitments which were made by them, and which were pre-requisites for the signing of the Treaty. Despite repeated reminders from the Government of India they failed to fulfil these commitments. India and Nepal have a long open border of about 1700 Kms. In such cases, therefore, trade and transit become indissolubly linked issues. Now that both the Transit Treaty, and the extended Trade Treaty, have lapsed simultaneously on March 23, 1989, Government are desirous of having for the future, one single unified Treaty on Trade and Transit with Nepal.

Change of timings of G.T. Express

1991. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI :
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN, :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the arrival time of GT Express in Delhi to 11.00 AM from May, 1989;

(b) if so, whether this will disturb the schedule of office-goers and M.Ps, travelling by this train;